

Stormwater Tip:

Impact of rapid snow melt on water quality of streams

Rapid snow melt can have significant impacts on the water quality of streams. The runoff from melting snow can carry pollutants from the surface, such as dirt, debris, and chemicals, into the streams. This can lead to increased turbidity, suspended solids, and other contaminants that can harm aquatic life. Additionally, the rapid flow of meltwater can overwhelm natural drainage systems, leading to erosion of sediment and increased sedimentation in streams. This can disrupt the flow regimes and disrupt the ecological functions of riparian habitats, jeopardizing the resilience of these ecosystems.